

Worms are WILD!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Kids

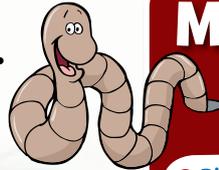


Be a NATURE detective!

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The world's wrigglers may be small, but they're vital. Without them, plants wouldn't grow and we wouldn't have much to eat! To learn more about these wiggly wonders, check out these fantastic facts and ace activities...



MAKE A WORMERY

Recreate a dark and cosy home for your super-slimy mates...

- Big plastic bottle ● Sand
- Compost ● Leaves
- Scissors ● Sticky tape
- Water ● Garden soil
- Black piece of card
- Some worms!



What you'll need



Watch out – there could be worms about!

Where are they hiding?



There are at least 26 species of earthworm that live in the British Isles – here's where you might find some of them...

- Take a trip to the woods and you're likely to find a **little tree worm** – but you'll have to look carefully because these tiny critters are only about 3cm long!
- Carefully peek under a log and you might see a **chestnut worm**. You'll know if you spot one because it has a white gland on its underside.
- Check out a pile of wet leaves and you'll probably find a **redhead worm** staring back at you – decaying leaves are their favourite food!



Little tree worm



Chestnut worm



Redhead worm

DID YOU KNOW?!

In a one-metre square in your garden there may be 20 to 40 lob worms and up to 20 black-headed worms. Wow!

Wicked WORMS

Impress your mates with these amazing facts about earthworms...

- 1 The hungry critters can eat up to one-third of their body weight in a day.
- 2 Earthworms don't have lungs – they breathe through their skin!
- 3 These wrigglers can't see, hear or smell, but they can sense when it's going to rain!



Check out NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Kids magazine for lots more fun activities every month!



Start here!

1 Cover a flat surface with newspaper, then carefully cut the top off the plastic bottle, about 5cm below the lid.

2 Fill the bottle with alternate layers of garden soil, compost and sand. Now pour in a little water to dampen the soil.



3 Next, scatter leaves on top. Now, cut a circle out of the black card – make it 4cm bigger than the top of the bottle. Finally, put the worms into the bottle, tape the card to the top to keep it nice and dark. Then watch your slimy pals wiggle!

TOP TIP

Mix mustard with water and pour onto the soil, to tempt worms to the surface! Always return the worms to where you found them after a week.

